



OPCW

Technical Secretariat

International Cooperation and Assistance Division
S/750/2009
26 March 2009
ARABIC, ENGLISH, and FRENCH only

NOTE BY THE TECHNICAL SECRETARIAT

**CALL FOR NOMINATIONS
FOR THE FIFTH REGIONAL ASSISTANCE-AND-PROTECTION COURSE
FOR AFRICAN STATES PARTIES
TSHWANE, SOUTH AFRICA
14 – 18 SEPTEMBER 2009**

1. On behalf of the Government of South Africa and the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW), the Director-General wishes to invite States Parties in Africa to nominate representatives to participate in the fifth regional assistance-and-protection course for African States Parties, which will take place from 14 to 18 September 2009 in Tshwane, South Africa.
2. The course will be jointly organised by the Government of South Africa and the Technical Secretariat (hereinafter “the Secretariat”). Providing training for up to 25 participants from the region, the course will cover the following topics: planning and building a support team for civilian protection and defence, rescue and decontamination operations in contaminated areas, and appropriate responses and countermeasures in the event of incidents involving chemical-warfare agents or toxic chemicals. The course will also provide an overview of the kinds of assistance the OPCW, the host country, and other States Parties in Africa can provide, and will help participating States Parties to establish a basic capability in protection from chemical weapons, which will directly benefit their civilian populations.
3. The course will offer an introduction to the use of individual and collective protective equipment; to monitoring, detection, and decontamination; and to sampling techniques. It will also facilitate the exchange of information and experiences regarding the implementation of Article X of the Chemical Weapons Convention and provide a forum for States Parties to discuss how they can cooperate in the future and what further offers they might make to the OPCW under that Article. The course will conclude with a practical emergency-response exercise.
4. Given the purpose of the course and its technical nature, candidates will be carefully selected according to the following criteria:
 - (a) All activities during the course will be conducted in English; no interpretation services of any kind will be available. All participants are therefore expected to have a good oral and written command of English.



- (b) Preference will be given to first responders from emergency-response units, such as fire-fighters, ambulance personnel, and police officers.
 - (c) Participants must be physically fit and capable of wearing individual protective gear for several hours at a time in hot weather. Some practical experience with protective equipment is desirable.
- 5. The Secretariat expects to be able to sponsor a limited number of participants from States Parties. For sponsored participants, it will cover the costs of accommodation, breakfast, and dinner. The National Authority of South Africa will also provide all participants with course materials, local transport, and lunch at no cost to either the participants or the OPCW. Further details regarding accommodation, the course venue, and transport will be issued to all confirmed participants at a later date.
- 6. When making travel arrangements for sponsored participants, the Secretariat will seek the most economical options. Sponsored participants will be allowed to purchase tickets locally only if this leads to further savings for the Secretariat and if the Secretariat authorises it. In order for the Secretariat to keep costs to a minimum, sponsored participants are expected to **arrive no earlier than Sunday, 13 September 2009**, and to **depart no later than Saturday, 19 September 2009**. The Secretariat's approval is required for any changes to the arrival and departure dates of sponsored participants. The Secretariat will not cover expenses unrelated to the course or that result from changes in travel arrangements that it has not authorised. Sponsored participants shall bear all costs resulting from changes they make, including cancellations, once the Secretariat has purchased their tickets. Participants who have not been sponsored are requested to make their own travel arrangements.
- 7. Participants are requested to obtain all necessary visas (including transit visas) before travelling to South Africa.
- 8. Interested applicants are invited to complete the nomination form that is included as Annex 2 to this Note, making sure to provide all contact details and to indicate their dietary preferences, especially if they require halal or vegetarian meals. Completed forms should be sent, **along with a brief curriculum vitae**, to the Director, International Cooperation and Assistance Division, OPCW, Johan de Wittlaan 32, 2517 JR The Hague, the Netherlands. Nominations may also be submitted by fax to +31 (0)70 416 3209, or by e-mail to EmergAssistBr@opcw.org. All materials must be received by the Secretariat **no later than 19 June 2009**. Please be advised that participants must present an OPCW acceptance letter in order to register for the course.
- 9. Additional information may be obtained from the Assistance and Protection Branch, International Cooperation and Assistance Division, at the contact address given above.

Annexes:

- Annex 1: Provisional Programme
- Annex 2: Nomination Form (English only)

Annex 1

**FIFTH REGIONAL ASSISTANCE-AND-PROTECTION COURSE
FOR AFRICAN STATES PARTIES
TSHWANE, SOUTH AFRICA
14 – 18 SEPTEMBER 2009**

PROVISIONAL PROGRAMME

Time	Activity
<i>Monday, 14 September</i>	
08:00 – 08:40	Opening
08:45 – 09:30	Introduction to the course
09:30 – 10:10	Introduction to the OPCW
10:10 – 10:30	<i>Coffee/tea break</i>
10:30 – 11:10	Lecture: The Chemical Weapons Convention
11:15 – 11:50	Lecture: Overview of Protechnik Laboratories
11:55 – 12:35	Lecture: Chemical-warfare agents
12:35 – 13:30	<i>Lunch</i>
13:30 – 14:10	Lecture: Toxic industrial chemicals
14:15 – 15:40	Lecture: Assessing threats and recognising attacks
15:40 – 16:00	<i>Coffee/tea break</i>
16:00 – 17:30	Lecture: Individual protection
<i>Tuesday, 15 September</i>	
08:00 – 10:10	Practical: Individual protection
10:10 – 10:30	<i>Coffee/tea break</i>
10:30 – 11:10	Lecture: Detection
11:15 – 12:35	Lecture: Detection and sampling
12:35 – 13:30	<i>Lunch</i>
13:30 – 14:55	Practical: Detection
15:00 – 15:40	Lecture: Decontamination
15:40 – 16:00	<i>Coffee/tea break</i>
16:00 – 17:30	Practical: Decontamination
<i>Wednesday, 16 September</i>	
08:00 – 10:10	Practical: Decontamination (continued)
10:10 – 10:30	<i>Coffee/tea break</i>
10:30 – 11:10	Lecture: Incident scenarios and possible consequences
11:15 – 11:50	Lecture: Incident layout
11:55 – 12:35	Lecture: Command and control
12:35 – 13:30	<i>Lunch</i>
13:30 – 17:30	Tabletop exercise: Incident management

Time	Activity
<i>Thursday, 17 September</i>	
08:00 – 10:10	Practical: Incident management
10:10 – 10:30	<i>Coffee/tea break</i>
10:30 – 12:35	Practical: Incident management (continued)
12:35 – 13:30	<i>Lunch</i>
13:30 – 15:40	Practical: Incident management (continued)
15:40 – 16:00	<i>Coffee/tea break</i>
16:00 – 17:30	Practical: Incident management (continued)
<i>Friday, 18 September</i>	
08:00 – 10:10	Practical: Incident management (continued)
10:10 – 10:30	<i>Coffee/tea break</i>
10:30 – 12:30	Emergency-response exercise & exercise evaluation
12:30 – 13:00	<i>Lunch</i>
13:00 – 15:30	Social activity

Annex 2

**FIFTH REGIONAL ASSISTANCE-AND-PROTECTION COURSE
FOR AFRICAN STATES PARTIES
TSHWANE, SOUTH AFRICA
14 – 18 SEPTEMBER 2009**

NOMINATION FORM

Please submit the completed form, **along with a brief curriculum vitae, by 19 June 2009** to:

The Director, International Cooperation and Assistance Division, OPCW

Attn: Assistance and Protection Branch

Johan de Wittlaan 32, 2517 JR The Hague, the Netherlands

Fax: + 31 (0)70 416 3209; e-mail: EmergAssistBr@opcw.org

Please type or use BLOCK LETTERS

1.	Family name of nominee*	
2.	First name(s)*	
3.	Date of birth	Day Month Year
4.	Citizenship	
5.	Gender**	Male <input type="checkbox"/> Female <input type="checkbox"/>
6.	Passport number	
7.	Date of issue	Day Month Year
8.	Expiry date	Day Month Year
9.	Place of issue	
10.	Areas of expertise	
11.	Employer	
12.	Position	
13.	Contact address (Please do not give a post-office box number)	Street
		Number Post code
		City
		Country
14.	E-mail address	
15.	Telephone numbers, including country and city codes	Home
		Work
		Mobile
16.	Fax numbers, including country and city codes	Home
		Work
17.	City of departure	

* Family name and first name should be as they appear in the passport.

** For this and all like items, please tick the appropriate box.

18.	Has the nominee previously taken part in a course of this kind?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
		If so, when and where?	
19.	Is sponsorship a condition of participation?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
20.	Dietary preferences	None <input type="checkbox"/>	Halal <input type="checkbox"/>
		Vegetarian <input type="checkbox"/>	Other (please specify) <input type="checkbox"/> :